

GARDNER DIVISION

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

**Pool 21
Upper Mississippi River Miles
332.5 – 340.2**

**Adams County, Illinois
Rock Island District**



RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Gardner Division is subject to yearly Mississippi River floods and is rapidly losing its valuable backwater areas and side chutes to siltation and vegetation encroachment. The project area also has one of the last high quality stands of bottomland forest in the middle reaches of the Upper Mississippi River.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Dredge 5,000 feet of O'Dell Chute and construct an emergent closure structure at the upstream end of the chute;
- * Protect the shoreline and head ends of selected islands; and,
- * Plant 67 acres of mast producing trees on the dredged material placement site on Long Island's eastern agricultural field.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

The mast tree plantings will improve the existing timber stand and increase its diversity by including both hard and soft mast tree species in the plantings. Island protection will stabilize island bank line, reduce tree fall from bank erosion, and provide additional aquatic habitat. The closure structure will reduce sedimentation in the side channels and enhance aquatic habitat. Side channel dredging will create deep water aquatic habitat.

FINANCIAL DATA:

General design costs were \$724,000 and construction costs are estimated at \$3,933,000. Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair are estimated at \$5,000 and will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the non-Federal project sponsor.

STATUS:

The Final Definite Project Report was completed in September 2000. MVD Approval was granted in November 2000. The Contract was awarded in March 2001. The dredged channel closure structure, shoreline protection features, and the mast trees are complete. A modification to the current contract for seeding will take place in April 2004.

An initial performance evaluation report (PER) was completed in May 2003 and distributed in June 2003. Project monitoring and performance evaluation will continue on a yearly basis.

A draft operation and maintenance manual has been completed in August 2003 and distributed. The final operation and maintenance manual will be completed once the as-builts are received.